

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 57th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN STEVE VICK**, on January 5, 2001 at
2:00 P.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Steve Vick, Chairman (R)
Rep. Dave Lewis, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Matt McCann, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. John Brueggeman (R)
Rep. Tim Callahan (D)
Rep. Edith Clark (R)
Rep. Bob Davies (R)
Rep. Stanley Fisher (R)
Rep. Dick Haines (R)
Rep. Joey Jayne (D)
Rep. Dave Kasten (R)
Rep. Christine Kaufmann (D)
Rep. Monica Lindeen (D)
Rep. Jeff Pattison (R)
Rep. Art Peterson (R)
Rep. Joe Tropila (D)

Members Excused: Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Rep. John Witt (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Paula Broadhurst, Committee Secretary
Taryn Purdy, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and
discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing(s) & Date(s) Posted: HB 1, HB 17 01/03/2001
Executive Action: HB 1, HB 17

HEARING ON HB 17

Sponsor: REP. DICK HAINES

Proponents: Bud Clinch, Department Natural Resources Conservation

Opponents: None

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

REP. Dick Haines, HD 63, Missoula, introduced HB 17. He remarked that it calls for fire supplemental appropriations of \$6,048,986 rounded off at \$6,050,000. He explained why the committee is dealing with fire supplemental appropriations at this time and noted that this is not all the appropriations they will need for fire costs and that it will be dealt with more after it has been through committee. He also noted how they got to this point: \$4,050,000 of the \$6,050,000 was to replace money taken from fiscal year 2001 and used to cover expenses for the year 2000. They, in effect, borrowed from the future to cover the immediate expenses that exceeded their appropriations. After they got into the fiscal year 2000, in order to keep operating, they also used \$2,000,000 from the Water Resources Board. Another aspect of this, he noted, has been accounted for in the projected ending balance so it will not cause any further change in that figure at this point.

Proponents Testimony:

Bud Clinch, Department Natural Resources Conservation, stated that he had nothing additional to add other than what REP. Haines had offered but Mr. Clinch said that if anyone had more questions, that he or his staff would respond to them.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter : 6.3}

Opponents' Testimony: None

Questions from the Committee Members and Responses:

REP. McCann asked how they arrived at the amount of \$6,048,000.

REP. Haines explained that there were a number of different expenses that totaled out to \$6,048, 986, (including county assists, costs to support other agencies such as the Forest Service, Emergency Funding); and based on the billings that the state government got that is what they added up to. The \$2,000,000 was the best estimate at the time they needed to keep operating in fiscal year 2001.

REP. McCann then asked what time span does the \$6,000,000 cover.

REP. Haines explained that it covered the fire activities during the fire season and the late part of the fiscal year 2000, prior to July 1. The rest of the cost were incurred during the fire season that took place from July 1 until the snows hit.

REP. Pattison asked how much of the fire cost was paid for by federal monies, if any.

REP. Haines explained that none of it has been paid by federal yet. Some will be paid by federal but when it will come in is uncertain. He also stated that they will receive about \$1.7 million to cover some of that which was expended in fiscal year 2000, but it will come to the general fund not to the agency.

REP. Janyne asked if there was a set amount in the DNRCS' budget for fires before this dollar amount.

REP. Haines explained that there is money in the budget but that it does not anticipate the kind of expenses of the last fire season, and typically and historically there is a supplemental expense after a fire season to pay fire expenditures that go past the normal budget. This past year was extraordinary and that is why it is being dealt with now with more to come later.

REP. Vick asked if the money that is being appropriated goes to private contractors or agencies; where is it spent?

REP.

Haines explained that a partial list exists, that it is not totally comprehensive as to where it all is spent, but it does show that \$2 million was spent to state direct and county assist costs, \$814,000 to support other agencies, \$1,800,000 to the U.S. Forest Service, \$525,000 to Spring 2000 fire cost. This is the

way the bills came into the agency for services rendered to the agency. The same kind of billing went to some of these other agencies but the bookkeeping rules prohibit writing off the costs.

Closing by Sponsor:

REP. Haines closed on HB 17.

Hearing on HB 1

Sponsor: Rep. Steve Vick

Proponents: Lois Menzies, Legislative Services Division

Opponents: None

Opening by Sponsor:

Rep. Steve Vick, HD 31, Belgrade, commented that HB 1 is for the operation of the Legislature during this Legislative session. He pointed out that it is different from the Legislative budget in that this bill is just for expenses for this session. He stated that it is up dramatically because the last session gave pay raises and because the per diem is based on a formula that automatically goes up as long as the other states around us goes up, and noted that it could also go down. It is based on 4 or 5 states around us and what they pay in per diem. Our per diem was set in 1997 and the pay was raised two grades during the last session.

Proponents Testimony:

Lois Menzies, Legislative Services Division, stated that Karen Berger, Manager of Financial Services in the Legislative Services, is along to answer any questions. **EXHIBIT (aph03a01)** She explained and walked through Exhibit 1 explaining the costs to the committee members.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18}

Opponents: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

Rep Lewis asked why if there are 50 Senators and 100 Representatives, why aren't the salary and expenses double.

Lois Menzies response was that part of the difference relates to the term limits for different individuals.

Closing by Sponsor:

Rep. Steve Vick closed on HB 1.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 20.2}

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 17

Motion/Vote: Rep. Haines moved HB 17 DO PASS. The motion carried unanimously - 18-0.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 1

Motion/Vote: Rep. Vick moved HB 1 DO PASS. The motion carried 17-1 with Rep. Kasten voting no.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 2:12 P.M.

REP. STEVE VICK, Chairman

PAULA BROADHURST, Secretary

SV/PB

EXHIBIT (aph03aad)